

"She was very meticulous, and she wanted to make sure that all the i's were dotted and all the t's were crossed."

While demanding, Bowman was humble, Becker said, and realized that being a team player would lead to success for everyone involved.

"She liked to involve as many people as she could in making decisions. She was involved in so many things, and very easy to work with. She was the kind of person you look up to and say 'nice job,'" he said.

Her career in public office began in 1978 as a member of the Shawnee Mission West Advisory Board. In 1981, she served the first of two terms on the Shawnee Mission Board of Education. She was board president for two years.

Julie Miller, a Shawnee Mission school board member for 16 years, met Bowman when the two served on the district's advisory boards. She remembers Bowman being consistently well-informed and dependable. "She was a brilliant person. You could always count on Joan," she said.

Before beginning her career in public service, Bowman taught math at junior high schools in the Shawnee Mission district. She graduated from Pittsburg State University in 1962.

David Watkins, Lenexa's city administrator for 19 years before leaving to accept a position as city administrator in Auburn, Ala., said Bowman's experience in education allowed her to communicate effectively with community members while listening to their concerns:

"She could take complex issues like the watershed program, and take all that technical info and reformat it to citizen groups in a manner that they can understand."

She was on the Lenexa Convention and Visitors Bureau board, the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, and was a member of the Lenexa Historical Society.

Council member Diane Linver said that despite Bowman's numerous offices and accolades, she would want to be remembered as a person who cared about her family and her community.

"She was a wonderful wife, a wonderful mother and a wonderful friend," she said.

Survivors include her husband, Ed, and two sons.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAYOR VAN WILLIS

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Mancos, Colorado, Mayor Van Willis who passed away recently at the age of eighty-seven. Van was a true American patriot, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his Colorado community. In his years spent in public service, Van embodied the ideals of integrity and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from our public servants. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community, state and country.

Van lived an immensely rich and full life, always holding firm to his beliefs in serving his community and country. He spent ten years serving his nation in the Army, earning a reputation as a solid and dependable leader.

After moving to Bayfield in 1947, he embraced the pioneering spirit of Colorado, running a ranch there, and later in Mancos. Van dedicated his efforts towards the betterment of his Mancos community, spending twelve years as the mayor of Mancos, serving on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, and serving as president of the Mancos Community Development. He also held a post command in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was a member of the American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, we are all at a great loss because of Mayor Willis' passing, but can be comforted in knowing he helped make Mancos a better place for future generations. I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his sister Margaret, his children, Linda and Dean; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mayor Willis' selfless dedication to Mancos, the State of Colorado, and the United States has helped ensure a promising future for our great country and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family, community and nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR RANDOLPH L. BRAHAM

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a brilliant and remarkable scholar, Professor Randolph L. Braham. Dr. Braham is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science from the City College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he is also Director of the Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies. He is a distinguished member of the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Professor Braham is an outstanding scholar and chronicler of the Hungarian Holocaust whose sixtieth anniversary we are commemorating this week.

His two-volume work, *The Politics of Genocide: The Holocaust in Hungary*, won the Jewish National Book award in 1981, and earned him citations in the New York State Assembly. In 1995, he was awarded the Order of Merit Officer's Cross of the Hungarian Republic.

Born in Romania in 1922, Professor Braham received a traditional Jewish upbringing in Dej, a small town in Transylvania. His parents and many relatives perished in the Holocaust. He spent 1943-45 in a forced labor battalion with the Hungarian and German armies in Ukraine. Later, he was captured and incarcerated in the gulag where he experienced the horrors of Soviet labor camps.

After the war, Professor Braham came to the United States on a Hillel Fellowship at the Graduate Faculty of the New School University and encountered many of the émigré luminaries, including Frieda Wunderlich, Arnold Brecht, Erich Hula, and Boris Mirkineguetzevitch.

Professor Braham has spent over forty years as a professor at the City College of New York. He is the author or co-editor of forty-two books on the Holocaust in central and eastern Europe including his all important

documentation *The Nazis' Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary*. Professor Braham has made a most significant contribution to the scientific historiography of the Holocaust in general and the tragedy of Hungarian Jewry in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Dr. Randolph Braham for his remarkable achievements and scholarly contributions in documenting the persecution of Jews in Europe, particularly his extensive history of the Hungarian Holocaust. The life's work of Dr. Randolph Braham is a major contribution to the understanding of the history of the twentieth century, and therefore it deserves to be recognized and honored by the Congress of the United States.

As George Santayana reminded us, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Dr. Braham's important legacy should help all future generations to learn the dark lessons of the past and thus enable them in the future to create societies based on justice and on values that will always include respect for the rights of the minorities and human rights in general.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH LEGISLATION

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 2004*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution designating a Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution acknowledges the contributions of Caribbean-Americans from the inception of our country to the present.

Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Jean Michel Basquiat, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Edwidge Danticat, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Sidney Ponson, Maryse Condé, Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally and Shirley Chisholm are just a few of the many Caribbean-Americans who helped shape American government, politics, business, arts, education, science, and culture.

Many of us in Congress focus on "hot spots" in the Caribbean—Cuba and Haiti—and forget that we have many constituents with roots from Suriname to the Bahamas and from Belize to Barbados.

The recent revitalization of a bi-partisan Congressional Caribbean Caucus forced many of us to re-evaluate the policy between CARICOM and the United States, and to discuss proposed and pending U.S. legislation that will have a direct impact on bilateral relations.

It is also important that we remember that our policies in the Caribbean affect the relatives of our constituents. I wrote this resolution to remind the American public that there are Caribbean-Americans who reside in every state of the union, and make sure that are recognized and celebrated.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor the Caribbean-American community, and create a month designated to annually acknowledge their service to our society.